

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 212751

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECEM, IT, FR

SUBJECT: INFO REQUEST: DIOXIN

REF: PARIS 24482

1. DIOXIN OR TCDD (TRICHLORO DIBENZO PARA DIOXIN) IS A BI-PRODUCT IN THE FORMATION OF TRICHLOROPHENOL, A CHEMICAL INTERMEDIATE USED TO PRODUCE BOTH HEXACHLOROPHENE (AN ANTI-BACTERIAL AGENT USED IN COSMETICS AND SOAPS) AND 2, 4, 5-T, A POWERFUL DEFOLIANT. DIOXIN IS THUS BASICALLY AN IMPURITY WHICH AT HIGH TEMPERATURES (250 DEGREES CENTIGRADE) IS RELEASED FROM TRICHLOROPHENOL AS OCCURRED WHEN THE EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE IN THE PLANT IN SEVESO, ITALY.

2. AS A BI-PRODUCT OR IMPURITY, THEREFORE, DIOXIN IS NOT PRODUCED COMMERCIALY IN U.S.A. NOR IS IT IMPORTED IN THAT FORM. HOWEVER, TRICHLOROPHENOL IS PRODUCED AND IMPORTED, BOTH FOR PRODUCTION OF HEXACHLOROPHENE AND 2, 4, 5-T, FOR WHICH THERE ARE RIGID FEDERAL STANDARDS CONCERNING DIOXIN LEVELS. KISSINGER

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